

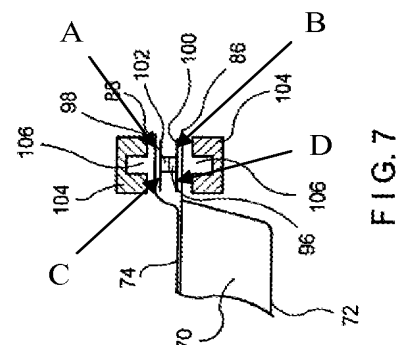
REMARKS

After the foregoing amendment claims 1-4, 6, 11, and 13-14 will be pending. Claims 1 and 11 are in independent form. Claims 1, 3, 4 and 11 have been amended, and claims 13-14 are new.

As an initial matter, Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for conducting an interview on March 20, 2008. During the interview, the Examiner stated that if Applicant amended the claims to further define the body portion of the fastener, the rejection would probably be withdrawn.

In that regard, 1-4, 6, and 11 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,244,021 (Ausnit) in view of Applicant's allegedly admitted prior art. Applicant does not acquiesce to the Examiner's statement that "the use of sealing jaws" is admitted prior art. But because Applicant's arguments for patentability are not focused on this issue, it requires no additional discussion. Applicant has amended independent claims 1 and 11 to clarify that each fastener comprises "a body portion comprising first and second interengaging profiles." Accordingly, claim 1 now recites in part, "locating the lengths of fastener on the substrate by first attaching a flange portion of the fastener to the substrate so as to leave the body portion of the fastener free [which comprises first and second interengaging profiles] for movement relative to the substrate," and claim 11 now recites in part, "locating a length of said reclosable fastener on said web at each said location by attaching said flange portion of said length to said web so as to leave said body portion of said fastener [which comprises first and second interengaging profiles] free for movement relative to said web of said substrate." Applicant submits that Ausnit does not teach a method of sealing a fastener to a substrate, as claimed.

Rather Ausnit teaches a zipper 92 having two interlocking closure elements 96 and 98 that are sealed onto a package body using a pair of seal bars 104. In particular, the seal bars 104 first attach zipper flanges 100 and 102 which extend from the closure elements 96 and 98, to wall extensions 86 and 88 of the package body. As shown in FIG. 7 of Ausnit (at right), because zipper 92 is first attached to the substrate at



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points A, B, C, and D (added by Applicant), the body of zipper 92 cannot be free for movement relative to the substrate, as claimed. Accordingly, Ausnit does not teach, "locating the lengths of fastener on the substrate by first attaching a flange portion of the fastener to the substrate so as to leave the body portion of the fastener free [which comprises first and second interengaging profiles] for movement relative to the substrate," as claimed in claim 1, nor does it teach "locating a length of said reclosable fastener on said web at each said location by attaching said flange portion of said length to said web so as to leave said body portion of said fastener [which comprises first and second interengaging profiles] free for movement relative to said web of said substrate" as claimed in claim 11.

Based on the foregoing remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1 and 11, (and claims 2-4, 6, and 13-14 which depend from one of claim 1 and 11) are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner determines that a telephone conference would further the prosecution of this case, he is invited to telephone the undersigned at his convenience.

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/Jake W. Soumis/

Jake W. Soumis

Registration No. 61,823

Woodcock Washburn LLP
Cira Centre
2929 Arch Street, 12th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19104-2891
Telephone: (215) 568-3100
Facsimile: (215) 568-3439